

WASHINGTON STATE

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS OFFICER

MONTHLY REPORT

November 2003

CATEGORY	NOV 2003	NOV 2002	YTD 03	YTD 02
CSEPP INCIDENTS	0	2	36	25
DOE INCIDENTS	0	0	13	7
FIRE	61	75	498	380
HAZMAT	104	144	1591	1739
OTHER	30	23	235	259
911 OUTAGES	3	3	31	44
SAR	33	46	565	622
TERRORIST	0	0	1	1
WEATHER	6	5	51	49
CGS INCIDENTS	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	237	298	3021	3126

LEGEND

CSEPP	Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program
DOE	Department of Energy, Hanford Site
SAR	Search and Rescue Missions
HAZMAT	Hazardous Materials Incidents
WEATHER	Weather Incidents (throughout state, i.e., Flood, High Winds, and Snow)
CGS	Columbia Generating Station
FIRE	Forest Fire Incidents
OTHER	This category includes a wide variety of incidents, i.e., Tsunami, Earthquake, Critical Incident Stress Debriefings, Bomb Threat, etc...
911	911 Service Outages

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

- On November 1, the National Weather Service issued a snow advisory for the SW interior as well as Yakima, Kittitas, Columbia and Walla Walla counties. This weather system was later upgraded to a Heavy Snow Warning for the Blue Mountains with 3 to 6 inches of new snow expected and 1 to 3 inches in the valley. The Heavy Snow Warning was cancelled on November 3 as the weather system moved out of the state.

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- On November 3, Grant County reported someone had cut the support cables to the transmission tower for radio station KBSN & KDRM near Moses Lake allowing the tower to fall into the lake. County law enforcement personnel continue to investigate this case.
- On November 5, a search was conducted in King County near Mason Lake for a missing 60 year-old male. Additional resources were coordinated from Pierce and Snohomish Counties. The resources were canceled later that morning when the subject was located in satisfactory condition.
- On November 5, the Williams natural gas pipeline near Marysville began to vent natural gas. An 8 block area of the 12700 to 13400 block of 84th street northeast in Marysville was evacuated by an EAS message initiated by Snohomish County dispatch at 20:52 hours. Residents were instructed to walk to their local fire department on 123rd & 84th street to be transported to shelter as the pipeline gas situation was repaired. The natural gas venting situation was quickly contained by Williams pipeline and local fire department personnel by 22:20 hours allowing local residents to return to their homes.
- On November 9, the National Weather Service issued a Winter Storm Watch for: Pend Oreille, Stevens, Ferry, Okanogan and Spokane Counties with 5 to 9 inches of snow expected above 4000 feet. As the storm approach the Weather Service expanded the areas to include: Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, King, Pierce and Lewis Counties. The Watch was upgraded to a Warning late on November 10th before finally being terminated late in the evening as the system moved out of the area.
- On November 15, Whatcom County reported a potential rock slide on state route 20 near Nehalem that could potentially deposit 3 million cubic yards of rock and debris into the Skagit River and flood the area when the river back-up broke though once again. The local county emergency management office activated to monitor the situation to protect resident's living downstream from the potential landslide area. Monitoring continues on this potential landslide situation.

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- On November 18, the Washington State Emergency Operations Center assumed Phase II Enhanced Operations effective 0930 hrs due to extensive flooding in several northwest counties. The Washington State EOC resumed Phase I Normal Operations at 0900 hours on November 20. EOC's in Skagit, Snohomish and Whatcom Counties resumed normal operations as well.
 - On November 20, the National Weather Service issued a Heavy Snow Warning for: Spokane, Pend Oreille, Stevens and Adams Counties. 4 to 9 inches of snow was expected in the mountains and 4 to 7 inches in the lower elevations. The Heavy Snow was terminated late the next day as the weather system moved out of the state.
 - On November 22, the National Weather Service issued a Winter Storm Watch for: NE Washington State with 4 to 6 inches of snow expected in the valleys and 6 to 10 inches in the mountains. The following several days brought one band of weather after another, prompting the National Weather Service to issue multiple Advisories, Watches and Warnings for most areas within Washington State. This weather system was replaced by a new series of storms commencing on November 26.
 - On November 22, Pacific County opened a search for two lost hunters in the Salmon Creek area, just south of SR-4. Resources from Grays Harbor, Thurston and Pierce Counties were coordinated. Additionally, a helicopter from U.S. Coast Guard Astoria conducted an over-fly of the area. The lost hunters were found cold but otherwise in good shape the next day.
 - On November 26, the National Weather Service again issued a series of warnings for areas within Washington State as a new series of weather fronts approached. Wind gusts reaching 60 mph were recorded along the coast and northwest interior and minor flooding was experienced along several rivers. There were no significant damages reported.
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- For the month of November, 2003 the SEOO's:
 - Issued 204 warnings to jurisdictions for imminent or occurring emergencies
 - Issued 62 warnings to tribal nations for imminent or occurring emergencies

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- Conducted 502 notifications to state agency liaisons for imminent or occurring emergencies
- Coordinated 10 resources for search, rescue, recovery and response operations
- Participated in 18 exercises of which 13 were vessel spill drills
- Made 1,055 and answered 1,452 telephone calls
- Conducted 1,736 National Warning System Tests, conducted 218 Comprehensive Emergency Management Network (CEMNET) radio tests. (connects all counties and many cities via Zetron Radio Console)
- Conducted 61 dedicated line tests with the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP)
- Conducted 7 dedicated line tests with the Department of Energy, Hanford Site (DOE)
- Conducted 6 dedicated line tests with the Columbia Generating Station (CGS)
- Conducted 20 down wind trajectory connectivity communications tests with the Umatilla Military Storage Depot (D2PUFF)